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ABSTRACT

This second annual encyclopedia summary updates the American Library Association's (ALA) evaluation of 10 sets and analyzes the deletions and additions made to each encyclopedia within the context of each publisher's revision plans. The board looked specifically for significant changes in purpose, arrangement, content style, general quality, and currentness. The current year's analyses cover Academic American Encyclopedia, Collier's Encyclopedia, Compton's Encyclopedia and Fact Index, Encyclopedia Americana, Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia, Merit Students Encyclopedia, The New Book of Knowledge, The New Encyclopaedia Britannica, New Standard Encyclopedia, and The World Book Encyclopedia. A quantitative statistical summary is included which covers: approximate number of entries, number of pages, approximate number of illustrations, consumer price, and school and library prices for 1985 and 1986. (THC)

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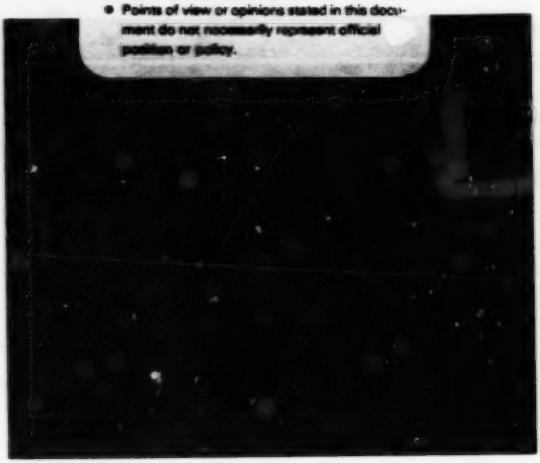

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ENCYCLOPEDIA ROUNDUP 1985

This second annual encyclopedia summary updates our last evaluation of each set and analyzes the deletions and additions made to each encyclopedia within the context of each publisher's revision plans. The Board looked specifically for significant changes in purpose, arrangement, content, style, general quality, and currentness. We urge readers who require more comprehensive commentary on a title to consult our latest in-depth review.

This year's analyses cover *Academic American Encyclopedia, Collier's Encyclopedia, Compton's Encyclopedia, Encyclopedia Americana, Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia, Merit Students Encyclopedia, The New Book of Knowledge, The New Encyclopaedia Britannica, New Standard Encyclopedia,* and *The World Book Encyclopedia.* For the convenience of our readers, a quantitative statistical summary appears at the end of this article.

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Academic American encyclopedia. 21v. Bernard S. Cayne, editorial director; K. Anne Ranson, editor in chief. Danbury, Conn., Grolier, Inc., 1985. illus. $750 + shipping and handling, retail; $550 (1985) + shipping and handling, $600 (1986) + shipping and handling, to schools and libraries.

Academic American Encyclopedia (*AAE*) is the newest set in the group being reviewed here, having been created in 1980 by Aretê Publishing Company, an American subsidiary of Verenigde Nederlandse Uitgeversbedrijven, the Dutch publishing conglomerate. *AAE* was the first set to employ computer technology in planning, editing, and revising an encyclopedia. It presents, in specific entries, a broad spectrum of up-to-date information that adults and students from the upper elementary grades through college need—and presents it accurately, objectively, and concisely. Grolier, Inc., the largest U.S.-based publisher and distributor of encyclopedias and reference books worldwide, acquired publication, marketing, and distribution rights to *AAE* in the spring of 1982. Early this year, Grolier purchased all rights to *AAE* and now owns the set outright. Since the publisher has been involved with *AAE*, the set has been thoroughly revised to reflect contemporary scholarship, attitudes, and concerns, and it has continued to excel in the quality and quantity of illustrative material. Because of its recent publication (as compared with other sets in this roundup), and since it is supported by Grolier's very aggressive revision program, *AAE* is one of the most up-to-date encyclopedias in the world. The set is also unique in that it is the only general encyclopedia that is available in a print version as well as three electronic versions: online, laser videodisc, and CD/ROM.

Since the Board's December 15, 1984, roundup article, there have been no radical changes in *AAE*'s audience, purpose, arrangement, style, and quality. The primary audience for this set is American; however, the content is not narrowly focused on the U.S. Coverage is international. The quantity, quality, and variety of the illustrations continue to be excellent. In fact more than one-third of the space is devoted to effective drawings, maps, charts, photographs, and commissioned artwork (16,000 pieces in all). About 75 percent of the illustrations are full color. Implemementing *AAE*'s continuous revision program, the 1985 edition contains 122 articles that replaced existing text. In addition, more than 1,500 articles are revised, some 100 new photographs are provided, and changes are made on 50 maps. In all, some 1,200 text pages were reset.

The allocation of space devoted to the major areas of knowledge in *AAE* remains the same as it was in 1980: humanities and arts, 36 percent; science and technology, 35 percent; social science, 14 percent; sports and contemporary life, 2 percent; and geography, 13 percent. New and replacement articles in this edition reflect updates in the aforementioned broad subject areas (e.g., *Education in the Arts; Magic Acts; Computer Modeling; Communal Living; Child Abuse; Lewis, Carl; Holistic Medicine; Tsukuba;* and *Afghanistan*). Currentness is assured by including information on events through the fall of the previous year, and in this latest edition a few significant happenings of 1985 are included, e.g., the change of leadership in the USSR to Mikhail Gorbachev in early 1985 is noted in the article on the *Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics*. Such major events and developments of 1984 as the Olympics and the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi are noted in the new edition. Olympic notable Carl Lewis and singer-dancer Michael Jackson are pictured in this edition.

AAE has maintained its impressive degree of accuracy and objectivity. Sexist, racist, and political biases in content and style are absent. The set presents known facts and notes conflicting theories of interpretations on such subjects as homosexuality, abortion, and the origin of life.

Biographical coverage of the lives and achievements of outstanding persons remains impressive: 35 percent of the entries are biographical. Newsworthy notables cited in 1985 include Geraldine Ferraro, Shirley MacLaine, Greg Louganis, and Desmond Tutu. More than 40 percent of the articles are accompanied by up-to-date bibliographic references to books and journal articles that provide readers with further information.

Access to material is still provided by the detailed index and the three different types of cross-references (a total of 67,000). The 200,000-entry index facilitates access to information in the set, including the specific indication of illustrations, maps, tables, and bibliographies.

In summary, the 1985 edition of the *Academic American Encyclopedia* reveals the implementation of Grolier's extensive, systematic, and conscientious revision program. It presents a broad range of accurate, objective, up-to-date, excellently illustrated information in language easily comprehended by students from the upper elementary grades through college and by adults.

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Collier's encyclopedia. 24v. Emanuel Friedman, editor in chief. New York, Macmillan Educational Co., 1985. illus. maps. plates. tables. $1,099.50, $1,399.50 including Collier's Home Educational Program, retail; $699 (1985) + $20 shipping ($664 + $20 shipping per set for two or more sets), $744 (1986) + $20 shipping (prepublication price of $669 + $20 shipping through 4/18/86), to schools and libraries.

Collier's Encyclopedia traces its antecedents back to a one-volume 1882 compendium. The current 24-volume format was first published between 1949 and 1951 by P. F. Collier Company. *Collier's* is revised and updated continuously, and it has established an enviable reputation as a scholarly written, well-illustrated set for high school and college students. The articles in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, and the biographies are particularly outstanding. The final volume contains bibliographies under broad subjects and subdivisions and a comprehensive index. Over the years *Collier's* has maintained a high level of accuracy and objectivity in a readable, well-designed format.

The 1985 edition of *Collier's* does not represent changes in scope, purpose, style, or intended audience. The number of text pages revised is down slightly from 2,018 pages in 1983 to 1,885 pages in

1985. Sixty-eight articles are new in this latest edition; 51 of these are on persons.

The most substantial new entries (all between five and ten pages in length) are *Industrial Labor in the United States; Industrial Waste Disposal; Labor Force and Unemployment; National Debt; Nuclear Power; Warfare, Chemical and Biological*; and *War, Nuclear*. Seven of the other ten new entries are in medical fields, e.g., *Birth Defects, Epidemic, Herpes*. New biographical coverage may consist of capsule biographies in the "Personalities" section at the end of such major articles as the one on *Ballet*, or may consist of separate entries on politicians (e.g., Geraldine Ferraro, Konstantin Chernenko, Brian Mulroney); entertainers (e.g., Cary Grant, Elvis Presley, James Stewart); writers, especially in the field of science fiction (e.g., Ray Bradbury, Arthur C. Clarke, Ursula Le Guin); art (e.g., Richard Haas, Fairfield Porter, John Soane); and other subjects.

Fourteen articles have been completely rewritten, in most cases by new contributors. The article on *War* has undergone a most significant change: it has been expanded from 3½ to 22 pages. Typical of *Collier's* predilection for broad, thematic articles, it is an excellent treatment of leading theories of the cause and nature of war, the history of war and its impact on society, and the modern institutions and movements that are devoted to preventing or controlling war. Other substantial rewriting occurs in the entries for *Einstein, Albert; Mondale, Walter*; and *National Debt*; all of which have been doubled in length.

As in most new editions of general encyclopedias, the greatest number of changes occur in updating for currency. Among those for 1985 are the addition of a newly published biography at the end of the article on *Kafka, Franz*, two *see also* references where there had previously been none for the *Bikini* article, the 1984 Olympic winners in *Bobsledding*, and a statistical updating from 1976–77 figures to 1981–82 data in various charts throughout the *North Dakota* entry.

Coverage of subjects with allocation of space remains approximately the same: regional studies, 35 percent; humanities, 20 percent; social sciences, 20 percent; mathematics and physical sciences, 15 percent; and life sciences, 10 percent. More than 600 new color illustrations have appeared in successive editions since 1981, and 89 black-and-white illustrations have been added in 1985. The index of more than 400,000 entries remains a great strength for *Collier's*. A special feature in the index volume (volume 24) is subject indexing of the 11,500 titles in the excellent bibliography in the same volume. Format, design, and opaque paper are retained in the newest edition.

New contributors are well chosen and many are acknowledged authorities in their subjects, e.g., the authors of articles on computer scientist Alan Mathison Turing and film director François Truffaut have written recent definitive works on these subjects.

In its 1985 edition, *Collier's Encyclopedia* continues to maintain its high standards and major strengths as one of our most important encyclopedias: readable, authoritative text, a high level of accuracy and objectivity, an excellent index, and a unique bibliography.

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Compton's encyclopedia and fact-index. 26v. Michael Reed, editor. Chicago, F. E. Compton Co., Division of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1984. illus. diagrs. maps. $599, retail; $479 (1985), $449 for two or more sets, $499 (1986), to schools and libraries.

Compton's Encyclopedia was first introduced in 1922 as an encyclopedia designed for young people. From the outset, it maintained an annual program of continuous revision. *Compton's* lays claim to being the first "pictured" encyclopedia and as such became a standard set for homes and school and public libraries. Over the years, *Compton's* became unique for its Fact-Index, its reading guides (at the beginning of volumes) organized by subject areas, its sets of pertinent questions prefacing each volume, its fact summaries accompanying articles on major countries and geographical areas, and its reference-outlines. *Compton's* still emphasizes practical and curriculum-related information and this makes it an attractive set for children and young people.

While 1983 and 1984 were years of extensive revision of *Compton's*, 1985 was clearly a year of planning for the future. Only one new article was added and 6 were revised since the last edition, as compared to 573 added and 459 revised during the previous two years. This small amount of change leaves the 1985 edition essentially the same as the 1984 edition, with the same strengths and weaknesses.

Increased emphasis on international coverage is evidenced by the policy of including articles on all nations and capitals, regardless of size. Biographies of internationally known persons in all subject fields continue to appear in both the main body of the encyclopedia and in the Fact-Index.

For controversial subjects, the editors of *Compton's* have begun a policy "to identify and explain the conflict without bias." This is evident over the past few years by increased coverage of controversial topics, e.g., the addition of complete articles on *Abortion, Animal Experimentation, Apartheid, Bioethics, Brainwashing*, and *Adoption*. As the encyclopedia continues to be updated and revised, more articles on current sensitive and controversial topics should be included.

The Fact-Index remains the key to best use of all the information in *Compton's*, with references to the main body of the work as well as short articles on subjects not covered in the main section. At 691 pages, the Master Fact-Index is the same length as it was in the 1984 edition, but it has been revised and updated. Volumes 1–3, 8, and 11–13 contain no references to the Fact-Index, but the rest of the volumes retain these cross-references. This inconsistency between the recently updated and the older volumes may be confusing to users and should be rectified.

Although *Compton's* massive revision of the last two years has greatly improved the work, there are many more sections that should be revised and updated. For example, *Invention* contains nothing newer than the 1960 discovery of the oral polio vaccine, and the only treatment of rock and roll besides articles on the *Beatles* and *Joplin, Janis* is as a minor footnote to the *Dance* article.

If the editors return to the extensive revision of the past two years, *Compton's Encyclopedia* can become an excellent children's and young adult encyclopedia. If, however, they continue at the 1985 pace, it will only grow more inconsistent and out of date.

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Encyclopedia Americana. 30v. Bernard S. Cayne, editorial director; Alan H. Smith, editor in chief. Danbury, Conn., Grolier, Inc., 1985. illus. maps. plates. $960 + shipping and handling, retail; $760 (1985) + shipping and handling, $799 (1986) + shipping and handling, to schools and libraries.

Encyclopedia Americana was the first major multivolume encyclopedia published in the U.S. It is also the second largest English-language encyclopedia. It was first published in 1829–1833 and it was subsequently produced in 20 volumes in 1911 and in 30 volumes between 1918 and 1920. Grolier, the current publisher, merged with the Americana Corporation in 1930. Today's *Americana* is international in coverage and scope. It is outstanding for its detailed coverage of U.S. and Canadian history and geography, its biographical, scientific, and technical articles, and its extensive treatment of the scholarship of literature, art, and music of every century A.D. It is continuously revised and is written in language easily compre-

Encyclopedia Summary Chart 1985

Encyclopedia	Approx. No. of Entries	No. of Pages	Approx. No. of Illus.	Consumer Price	School and Library Price 1985	School and Library Price 1986
Academic American Encyclopedia 21v.	28,500	9,700	11,700	$750 + shipping and handling	$550 + shipping and handling	$600 + shipping and handling
Collier's Encyclopedia 24v.	21,000	19,750	17,350	$1,099.50; Collier's Home Education Program (© 1985 *Collier's Encyclopedia* along with other educational books and products): $1,399.50	$699 + $20 shipping ($664 + $20 shipping per set for two or more sets)	$744 + $20 shipping (prepublication price of $669 + $20 shipping through 4/18/86)
Compton's Encyclopedia and Fact-Index 26v.	38,000	11,000	20,000	$599	$479 ($449 each for two or more sets)	$499
Encyclopedia Americana 30v.	52,000	27,000	23,700	$960 + shipping and handling	$760 + shipping and handling	$799 + shipping and handling
Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia 29v.	25,000	13,024	9,500	$125.81 during fall 1985 supermarket sales season	Local distributor's price	Local distributor's price
Merit Students Encyclopedia 20v.	21,000	12,300	19,200	$1,099.50; Merit Students Home Educational Program (© 1985 *Merit Students Encyclopedia* along with other educational books and products): $1,399.50	$475 + $16 shipping ($440 + $16 shipping per set for two or more sets)	$525 + $16 shipping (prepublication price of $459 + $16 shipping through 4/30/86)
The New Book of Knowledge 21v.	13,800	10,500	23,500	$650 + shipping and handling	$469.50 + shipping and handling	$499.50 + shipping and handling
The New Encyclopaedia Britannica 32v.	61,000 in Micro and Macro, + 25,000 cross-references in Micro	32,000	24,000 + 164 plates	$1,249	$949	$999
New Standard Encyclopedia 17v.	17,401	10,052	12,000	$634.50	$380.70	Price not set
The World Book Encyclopedia 22v.	19,000	14,000	29,000	$499 for standard binding; $549 for aristocrat binding, $599 for classical binding, + $29 each shipping and handling	$404 + $29 shipping and handling	$433 + $29 shipping and handling after 2/1/86

hended by nonspecialists from upper elementary age upwards. *Americana* maintains a high level of accuracy and authority.

Americana utilizes a sophisticated system of continuous revision. Statistics reveal that many changes have been made since the 1984 volume was published, though not as many as in the years 1982 and 1983 when final population figures from the U.S. and Canadian censuses of 1980 and 1981 respectively were incorporated into several hundred articles. Many new biographies have been added, notably for political or world figures, such as Russia's Gorbachev and Israel's Shimon Peres, as well as for some American women, among them Geraldine Ferraro, Shirley MacLaine, Eudora Welty, and Olympic runner Mary Decker. Additional new articles cover such current interests as *Amtrak*, *CPR*, the *Shroud of Turin*, and *Video Games*. Other articles have been rewritten to include new findings in medicine, science, or other fields, such as those on *Arthritis*, *Cocaine*, and *Stroke*. The articles on *Argentina*, *Northern Ireland*, and *Vietnam* are typical of excellent, updated, rewritten articles on countries that are undergoing change.

Despite deletions that are a necessary concomitant of continuous revision, the total number of pages in *Americana* has increased slightly: in 1983 there were 26,476 pages; in 1984, 26,690; and in 1985 there are 26,965 pages. The continuous revision process of *Americana* ensures that most articles are reviewed annually, and those that would benefit from revision or updating are modified or rewritten, as required. In addition, the editors keep abreast of current events, and they insert articles on new ideas, new names in the news, and new political, literary, scientific, athletic, religious, or social events.

The Board concludes that *Encyclopedia Americana* in 1985 lives up to the high standard that it has set for itself for more than 150 years; the volumes are well written, well illustrated, timely, informative, reliable, and unbiased. It is an excellent encyclopedia, which we recommend highly for both home and library use by both adults and students beyond the level of the lower elementary grades.

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Funk & Wagnalls new encyclopedia. 29v. Leon L. Bram, editorial director; Robert S. Phillips, editor in chief; Norma H. Dickey, special products editor in chief. New York, Funk & Wagnalls, 1985. illus. maps. tables. $125.81 during fall 1985 supermarket sales season; local distributor's price to schools and libraries.

Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia is one of the oldest sets published in the U.S. It began in 1912 as *Funk & Wagnalls Standard Encyclopedia*, was extensively revised, expanded into 25 volumes,

and renamed *Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Encyclopedia* in 1931. Since that time it has been revised, abridged, and renamed—the most recent reediting, expansion, and new design occurring in 1983. Materials in *Funk & Wagnalls* are prepared to meet the informational needs of junior and senior high school students and nonspecialist adults. The set is unique among today's encyclopedias in its method of distribution through supermarkets on "book-a-week" programs. Schools and libraries can acquire it only through direct sales organizations. Its 25,000 articles are well illustrated, accurate, and easy to use. *Funk & Wagnalls* offers remarkable value for its price.

While *Funk & Wagnalls* still shows the 1983 copyright date when there was a major revision of the complete set (cf. our Dec. 15, 1983, review), the spring 1985 printing has been updated to include many 1984 occurrences and a considerable amount of new information. Between 1984 and 1985, some 1,260 pages have been revised; changes include 60 new articles and many revisions to existing articles. Among new biographies are those for P. W. Botha, Geraldine Ferraro, Jesse Jackson, Peter Martins, Sally Ride, and Desmond Tutu. New articles include *Acid Rain, Carcinogen, El Niño* (under *E*), *Greenhouse Effect, Narcolepsy*, and *Toxic Shock Syndrome*. Room has been made for the new articles, not by deleting other entire articles, but in most cases by shortening adjacent ones either by taking out peripheral facts or by tightening sentence structure, or by deleting a black-and-white illustration; occasionally an illustration was bled to the edge of the page. Several omissions mentioned in our Dec. 15, 1984, "Annual Encyclopedia Roundup" have been addressed and brought up-to-date here: lists of Nobel Prizes, Academy Awards, sports champions, etc., have been updated to 1983 and 1984. *Space Exploration* has been updated both in text and in the color illustrations that now show events as late as November 1984; the accompanying table was also brought up to 1984. Worldwide political developments and population figures have been updated; e.g., while the article remains under *Upper Volta*, note has been made that the new name of the country is Burkina Faso and there is a cross-reference from that name to the article both in the text and in the Index. Index entries have been added for new articles. No new bibliographies or additions to them were noted, but these were quite current as of 1983.

While not as comprehensive and detailed as the largest English-language encyclopedias, *Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia* presents facts on people, places, and things in a straightforward manner offering global coverage of all fields of knowledge. Entries range from brief identifications to long detailed treatments; illustrations are well chosen and reproduced. The set continues to provide fine value for its price and remains an excellent choice for homes, useful for both adults and older children. It is also a practical purchase for libraries.

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Merit students encyclopedia. 20v. Emanuel Friedman, editor in chief. New York, Macmillan Educational Co., 1985. illus. maps. diagrs. $1,099.50, $1,399.50 including Merit Students Home Educational Program, retail; $475 (1985) + $16 shipping ($440 + $16 shipping per set for two or more sets), $525 (1986) + $16 shipping (prepublication price of $459 + $16 shipping through 4/30/86), to schools and libraries.

Merit Students Encyclopedia was first published by Crowell-Collier Educational Corporation (now Macmillan Educational Company) in 1967. *Merit* is oriented toward school curricula in the U.S. and Canada, and it is designed for youngsters from the fifth-grade level through high school. Since its beginning, it has been continuously revised. Coverage of information is well balanced to reflect the interests and needs of its intended users. Objectivity and accuracy are

high. Superior taste and discrimination are exercised in the use of graphics. We have consistently found *Merit* useful, attractive, and well done to meet young people's informational needs.

Basically, *Merit* has not changed in format or style from the previous editions of the 1980s. The 1985 edition has 57 new entries, 22 completely rewritten articles, and 773 updated or revised articles. New additions to 26 children's author entries include place, date, and country of birth, and a thumbnail sketch of the type of book the author wrote. The articles in *Merit* are current and up-to-date. New information has been added consistently. For example, coverage of Ronald Reagan's second term as president is included, and there is an article on child abuse that reflects the growing concern in the U.S. Other new or revised topics include a substitute for sperm whale oil (the *Jojoba* plant), *Reye's Syndrome*, and the article on *Sleep* now includes research findings on rapid eye movements. The article on Chicago is current enough to include Mayor Washington, elected in November 1982, and broad enough to trace the racial/ethnic changes between 1900 and the present.

Illustrations in *Merit* are graphically simple and easily understood. Especially commendable is the use of sequential photographs as in the ceramic and pottery articles, explaining the formative and decorative processes very well. Maps have been produced by Rand McNally. They are excellent and well indexed.

Merit is written by creditable authors and reviewed for accuracy and comprehensiveness by subject specialists and curriculum experts. All articles are signed. The well-organized, comprehensive, detailed, uniform articles on the U.S. states and Canadian provinces and the lengthy biographies of U.S. presidents remain a unique strength.

Bibliographies generally refer to books published between 1960 and 1970, and sometimes suggest titles for younger readers.

Merit Students Encyclopedia in 1985 is a valuable source of interestingly and objectively written, well-illustrated information. Elementary students will be able to use the diagrams and fact indexes. Junior and senior high school students and adults will find that the set meets quick reference needs successfully for information on a broad range of topics.

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The new book of knowledge. 21v. Bernard S. Cayne, editorial director; Jean E. Reynolds, editor in chief. Danbury, Conn., Grolier, Inc., 1985. illus. maps. charts. diagrs. $650 + shipping and handling, retail; $469.50 (1985) + shipping and handling, $499.50 (1986) + shipping and handling, to schools and libraries.

Grolier produced the first edition of *The New Book of Knowledge* (*NBK*) in 1966. It was alphabetically arranged and it replaced the very popular topically arranged *Book of Knowledge* that had been constantly used by children between 1910 and 1966. *NBK* is curriculum-oriented and it is designed and organized to be especially useful in meeting children's curriculum and out-of-school needs for information. The set is prepared by authorities who are experts as educators and subject specialists. Its broad coverage of well-illustrated general information, presented in language easily comprehended by elementary school children in a very attractive format, has accorded it the Board's recommendation over the years as a fine reference tool.

NBK is updated and revised using a stringently applied system of continuous revision that takes into account new or expanding areas of knowledge and curriculum changes. Events that occurred as late as February 1985 have been included. Nearly 700 articles were revised for the 1985 edition; of these 129 were major revisions covering a broad range of subjects. Thirty-seven new subjects—more than any revision in the set's history—have been added for 1985. Among them are *Child Abuse, Hanoi, Hispanic Americans, Holocaust, Sales*, and *Marketing. Child Development* is completely new, considering the role of heredity as well as that of environment in child development. New biographical articles cover such notables as Geraldine Ferraro, Martin Brian Mulroney, Maurice Sendak, and J. R. R. Tolkien. There are 30 replacement articles (new articles that appear under existing titles). Some articles have been revised with major overhauls, e.g., *Calendar* is a much expanded replacement for an article previously entitled *Calendar, History of the*. The new article emphasizes practical rather than historical aspects, and a number of four-color illustrations have been added. A perpetual calendar spanning the period from 1860 to 2099 is a new feature. The updating approach is reflected also in new color photographs. *Flags* was replaced in its entirety. The 22-page article not only has all new text, but also has new art for each flag of the world. *Little League Baseball* was replaced and expanded, offering new information on the sport, including Senior League and Big League divisions, new playing field information, and rules and regulations for Tee Ball. *Supermarkets* was replaced with information added on bulk food buying, gourmet foods, and a new photograph of a computerized checkout system. *Weight Lifting* was replaced to include updated information and a new color photograph of a female participant.

The Dictionary Index with encapsulated fact entries in each *NBK* volume has long been a strength of the set. In 1985, 212 Dictionary Index articles have been added; of these, 180 are biographies.

The New Book of Knowledge continues to be a superbly illustrated, highly reliable, current encyclopedia that provides broad coverage of general information. It is designed and organized to meet the special needs of modern young people from preschool age through the age when they are ready for adult encyclopedias. *NBK* is highly recommended for homes, and school and public libraries.

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The new encyclopaedia Britannica. 32v. Philip Goetz, editor in chief. Chicago, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 1985. illus. maps. plates, tables. $1,249, retail; $949 (1985), $999 (1986), to schools and libraries.

The New Encyclopaedia Britannica (*NEB*), the largest and oldest general encyclopedia in English, was first published in Edinburgh in 1768. Since 1943, it has been produced in Chicago. It has developed over the years from an unpretentious three-volume "dictionary of arts and sciences" to a major scholarly reference work. The eleventh edition, probably the most famous, was produced between 1910 and 1926; in it the methodology and plan were modified. The fourteenth edition of 1929 was created for a broader audience and encompassed the full range of knowledge. In the 1930s an annual partial revision program was embarked upon. Finally, the fifteenth edition of 1974 brought about the drastic tripartite reorganization into the *Micropaedia* (10 volumes of ready-reference information), the *Macropaedia* (19 volumes of long comprehensive articles), and the *Propaedia* (the one-volume outline of knowledge and guide to the set). We have here in 1985 the results of annual continuous revision, a massive restructuring of the set of 1974, and a comprehensive two-volume index.

Since *NEB* did not participate in *RBB*'s 1984 roundup, we shall be examining the set in more detail than is given to the other encyclopedias (see also the review of *NEB* in *RBB*, November 15, 1985). Substantial changes have been made in the 1985 *NEB*. But with all of the drastic restructuring that will greatly add to ease of use, it retains the international coverage and impressive list of contributors commended earlier by the Board. It still remains, as the Board remarked on Dec. 1, 1982, "the most scholarly English-language encyclopedia available in terms of coverage and style." Unchanged is the

audience for which it is intended—"the curious, intelligent layman. The *Macropaedia* is educated adult level. The *Micropaedia*, on the other hand, can be used by school children."

Many of the *Macropaedia*'s 4,200 articles on specific subjects have been combined under 681 broad subjects, all signed, with prefatory outlines of contents clearly shown. Appended bibliographies have been expanded and updated. "Highly dateable material" has been shifted to the new *Britannica World Data Annual*, which is published in the same volume with *Britannica Book of the Year*. Regrouping and updating are immediately apparent in the articles on countries, which append regions treated separately earlier. Readers are referred to the yearbook for later political developments, although these are covered in *NEB* through the early 1980s. Information on all except 100 persons who profoundly influenced world history has been wisely transferred to the *Micropaedia*. The result is a more logical arrangement.

While there has been considerable rewriting and revision in the *Macropaedia*, even more is evident in the *Micropaedia*, with its 60,000 articles arranged word by word, an improvement over the letter-by-letter arrangement in earlier volumes. The increase in number of *Micropaedia* volumes to 12 is due in part to the already noted transfer of biographies from the *Macropaedia*, plus a number of new biographies for persons prominent in the twentieth century. These include most of the figures noted earlier by the Board as omitted and range widely from Italian conductor Claudio Abbado to balloonist Ben Abruzzo. Also, there are added articles on new subjects, e.g., *Acid Rain*. Other changes that improve the quality of coverage are brief usage notes at frequent intervals to aid users; cross-references to the rest of the set (15,000 in all); and most important, a large number of longer articles now possible because the previous 750-word limit is no longer observed. For example, the article on the *Van Allen Radiation Belt* gives essential information on the subject in a text five times longer than the earlier article that was chiefly an outline of the article in the *Macropaedia*. In 1985 this excellent article is incorporated under the broader subject, *Atmosphere*. The longer *Micropaedia* articles will be much more useful to those seeking a brief account but also requiring essential information and more comprehensive coverage. Finally, improved wording throughout the volumes gives added clarity to the text and makes it more comprehensible.

Also restructured is the *Propaedia*, whose outline of topics under the ten-part "circle of learning" has been shortened and simplified, e.g., for *Art* or *Human Life*. The *Propaedia* now refers to coverage in both the *Micropaedia* and the *Macropaedia*. (Earlier, only *Macropaedia* citations were in the "circle of learning.") All references are to titles rather than to volumes and pages, and they are conveniently grouped by subject, making follow-up easier. The ten essays that introduce each of the parts of the *Propaedia* have been retained as written by the scholars who originally wrote them. New illustrations include 14 views of the human body, 12 in Trans-Vision. These are cited in the Index, but they might, at least for general users, more conveniently accompany the *Micropaedia* article on the human body.

One of the most striking additions to the 1985 *NEB* is a much-needed excellent dictionary Index to the contents of all volumes. In two volumes, the 172,400 entries (411,500 references) give *exact* location for text, tables, and illustrations, including maps. Major references are listed first, followed by specific subheadings. Biographical entries include nationality and vocation. Countries are indicated for geographical entries, and field designations are given when pertinent. The *Propaedia* is frequently cited for lists of related subjects. Cross-references for alternate spellings and forms of entry are freely supplied. Titles of written material (novels, dramas) and works of art are clearly indicated. Full instructions for use are augmented by explanatory notes throughout both volumes of the Index. The publishers rightly urge that the Index always be used first. Certainly it will expedite location of specific information.

In summary, the restructured and updated *Micropaedia*, with its fuller articles and added biographies; the *Macropaedia*'s grouping under broad, clearly outlined topics; the simplified *Propaedia*; and the comprehensive analytic Index have improved the *NEB* immensely, making the contents of this massive set more accessible. In 1985, *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica* is notable for its distinguished authorities appropriately matched to their subjects, excellent (sometimes exhaustive) coverage of a wide range of subjects, vastly improved currentness, and impeccable finding devices.

◆

New Standard encyclopedia. 17v. Douglas W. Downey, editor in chief. Chicago, Standard Educational Corp., 1985. illus. maps. tables. $634.50, retail; $380.70 (1985), to schools and libraries (1986 price not yet set).

The premier edition of what is now *New Standard Encyclopedia* appeared in 1910 as the five-volume *Aiton's Encyclopedia*. In 1912 it was expanded and retitled *Standard Reference Work for the Home, School, and Library*; in 1927, the name was shortened to *Standard Reference Work*. During a brief period in the 1920s, the encyclopedia was also sold under the title *National Encyclopedia*. In 1930, Standard Education Society, Inc., acquired the set and changed its name to *New Standard Encyclopedia*. (The Society itself changed its name in 1968 to Standard Educational Corporation.) During the 1950s, the product was published in two editions—a 10-volume split-letter edition and a 14-volume unit-letter version. In 1983 the set was expanded to its present 17 volumes.

During the period between 1955 and 1965, *New Standard* was completely rewritten, reillustrated, and expanded to double its size. Since 1965, the letters *A*, *S*, and *T* have been redone again, and since that time, spot and subject area revisions have been made in all the volumes. Over the years, *New Standard* has continued to provide families with up-to-date, accurate information on a variety of topics.

The variety of coverage is illustrated nicely by the list of 48 new articles added to the 1985 revision (deadline for printing was August/September 1984). Ranging from *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis* to *Wolfe, Tom*, the articles reinforce *New Standard*'s emphasis on topics of current interest, e.g., sports (*Luge; Hogan, Ben; Sports Medicine*); current events (*Chernenko, Konstantin; Dioxin; Shultz, George; Space Shuttle*); technology (*Compact Disc Player*); and the arts (*Baryshnikov, Mikhail; Garner, Errol; Mehta, Zubin*; and *Pinter, Harold*). Staples of inquiry such as *Poison Oak, Hare Krishna, Coca-Cola Company, Lockout, Radio Free Europe*, and *Options Trading* now are included too, along with biographies of Geraldine Ferraro, Gloria Steinem, Sally Ride, and Lech Walesa. Representing the encyclopedia's traditionally strong geographical coverage are new concise entries for the small cities of Hopkinsville, Kentucky; Salem, Virginia; and Garmisch-Partenkirchen, West Germany. None of the new articles is lengthy; most are confined to a column or less and only *Space Shuttle* covers more than a page.

Despite these additions, the net increase in pages is only three. Therefore, to make room for new material, the editors have deleted 85 articles (mostly for lesser-known and minor subjects); the 1985 encyclopedia therefore contains 37 fewer articles than last year's. The editors have compensated for the deletions in part by placing some material in longer articles and inserting cross-references.

New Standard in 1985 has a reduced number of small pictures (71 fewer illustrations), but 124 new four-color subjects have been introduced to assure updated coverage. Thus *Computer* is enhanced by illustrations calling attention to personal computers and computer

graphics, and a glossary section has been added and set off in color. Storage device pictures are newly arranged in a full-page illustration. Standard articles such as *Florida, Scotland,* and *India* have new pictures, and the 1984 Winter and Summer Games champions are featured in *Olympics*. Black-and-white illustrations have occasionally been converted to color, and frequently the placement of illustrations has been improved.

More than 2,000 articles were revised for this ninetieth printing—the largest number for a single year since the eighty-seventh printing (which included new census statistics). The revisions include, in addition to census statistics, other statistical information, death dates, and the prizes, awards, and championships that are the staples of the process. These routine changes are successfully completed, with most information updated through 1983, and frequently through 1984. The most recent coverage is for the 1984 U.S. elections, which appears in the late-closing articles on U.S. history and Ronald Reagan.

The Board noted general updating in a large number of articles. Among these are additions to chronological coverage in such articles as *Angola; Airplane; McGovern, George; Republican Party*; and *Space Exploration*; and rewriting on such topics as *Capitalism, Friction, Hansen's Disease, Printing*, and *Turpentine*. However, the failure to provide more current information on some countries that have been prominent in the news (Afghanistan, Israel, Egypt, Iran, and Iraq) is disappointing. And occasionally nondemographic statistics are too old to be considered current, as in *Corn, Rye, Iron*, and *Steel*, and in the article on the U.S., under the subhead "economy." On the other hand, a variety of new titles in bibliographies gives evidence of careful attention to the literature on topics such as *Consumer Protection, Evolution, Medicine, Mental Retardation, Quotation, Reconstruction*, and *War of 1812*.

On the whole, *New Standard Encyclopedia* has an active revision program that gives ample attention to the incorporation of new topics as well as to rewriting and updating older articles. The Board finds that the 1985 edition provides adequate, basic, accurate, current information on a wide variety of topics for its audience of junior and senior high school students and adults.

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The world book encyclopedia. 22v. William H. Nault, publisher; Robert O. Zeleny, editor in chief; A. Richard Harmet, executive editor. Chicago, World Book, Inc., 1985. illus. maps. tables. diagrs. $499 (standard binding), $549 (aristocrat binding), $599 (classical binding), retail; $404 (1985), $433 (1986 after 2/1/86), to schools and libraries (all prices exclusive of $29 shipping and handling).

The World Book Encyclopedia started in 1917 as an 8-volume set published by the Quarrie Corporation. In 1918 it was expanded to 10 volumes; since 1971 the set has been produced in 22 volumes including a comprehensive index. In 1925 *World Book* adopted an annual continuous revision program. *World Book* is curriculum oriented. It has consistently received the Board's high marks for accuracy, authority, and outstanding graphics. It is a superior set, well edited and produced to meet the reference and leisure informational needs of students from grade four through high school. It is also an excellent source for adults.

The 1985 *World Book* continues the publisher's long-standing tradition of excellence—for readability, accuracy, authoritativeness, objectivity, judicious and extensive use of illustrations—and timeliness, which the Board's previous reviews have duly noted. In this edition, there are 91 new articles, 411 completely revised articles, 1,575 partially revised articles, and 5,074 completely or partially revised pages. This extent of revision compares favorably with the 1981–84 averages of 92, 308, 1,450, and 5,239, respectively. Among the new articles are *Ferraro, Geraldine Anne; Gorbachev, Mikhail Sergeevich; Jackson, Michael; Motion Sickness; Peres, Shimon; Salem Witchcraft Trials; Shamir, Yitzhak*; and *War Powers Resolution*.

The range of completely revised articles is illustrated by the following examples: *Air; Anderson, Marian; Antony, Mark; Arabic Language; Mali; Meningitis; Motorcycle; Mulroney, Martin Brian; Pimple; Renaissance; Statistics; Taxation; Waters, Ethel*; and *World, History of the*.

A few examples will suggest the nature of changes in the partially revised articles. More recent titles were appended to *Adoption*. Two graphs in *Advertising*—"Total Growth of U.S. Advertising" and "Growth of U.S. Advertising by Media"—show 1984 figures instead of the 1981 ones in the 1984 edition. *Abortion* includes more and newer information on abortion methods and a cross-reference to *Moral Majority*. *Accounting* notes a change of address of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants and has changed the statement (1984 edition) indicating that the "Big Eight" earned about 85 percent of all the revenue of CPA firms to their earning most of the revenue. Articles on various sports (e.g., *Baseball, Basketball, Bowling*) record 1984 results. Population data for the countries of the world include the most recent official figures and often provide estimated 1985 and 1990 figures as well. The article on *Trudeau, Pierre Elliott* shows both his 1984 divorce and resignation on June 30, 1984, as prime minister of Canada. The results of the 1984 U.S. presidential election are given. The death dates of many notable personalities who died between January and August 1984 are supplied (Yuri V. Andropov, February 9; Count Basie, April 26; Truman Capote, August 25; George H. Gallup, July 26; Lillian Hellman, June 30; J. B. Priestley, August 14, etc.).

Attention is directed to one change in volume 22, the Research Guide/Index: the instructional section *How to Do Research* of previous editions has been replaced with a more broadly based one called *A Student Guide to Better Writing, Speaking, and Research Skills*.

In conclusion, the 1985 *World Book Encyclopedia* maintains the high standards of readability, accuracy, authoritativeness, objectivity, graphics, and up-to-dateness of previous editions. Extremely useful in both homes and libraries, it is a superior encyclopedia well suited to meet the reference and study needs of students grades 4–12 and to serve as a general reference source for adults.

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